



Sharon Grierson MP
Federal Member for Newcastle

Media Release

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LOCAL SCHOOLS TO SAVE ENERGY AND WATER UNDER FEDERAL PROGRAM

Sharon Grierson MP, Federal Member for Newcastle, today announced that five schools in Newcastle would share in \$161,925 of funding grants under the National Solar Schools Program.

Successful Newcastle schools to receive funding:

\$33,000 for Fern Bay Public School
\$33,000 for Cameron Park School
\$33,000 for Kotara School
\$33,000 for Woodberry Public School
\$29,925 for Tighes Hill Public School

"Twelve local schools shared in \$436,695 under the last National Solar Schools Program round," Ms Grierson said, "so this announcement takes the investment in energy efficient measures in Newcastle's schools to well over half a million dollars under the program.

It's pleasing that these schools are implementing practical measures to reduce their carbon emissions whilst saving water, conserving and generating electricity."

The Parliamentary Secretary for Climate Change and Energy Efficiency, Mark Dreyfus, announced that 784 schools Australia wide have been awarded grants of up to \$50,000, to install solar and other renewable power systems, rainwater tanks and to implement a range of energy efficiency measures.

"The National Solar Schools Program gives school children the opportunity to see energy generation and learn the importance of water and energy conservation first hand, to date 3,800 schools across Australia have been awarded grants under the program," Mr Dreyfus said.

"The combined installation of renewable energy systems will generate approximately 20MW of solar power – equivalent to powering around 4,200 average households each day."

Applications were assessed using merit-based criteria, meaning schools have to demonstrate value for money, as well as environmental and educational benefits.

The final round of the program will open to applications on 13 February, 2012.

For more information about the National Solar Schools Program, including a list of successful grant recipients, visit: www.climatechange.gov.au/nationalsolarschools

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